(a) whether Government are aware that World Gold Council's latest report on India has shown that Indians swallowed five tones of gold in the form of Ayurvedic pills and powder in a decade, showing an increase from 0.2 tonne in 1990;

(b) if so, whether the Ayurvedic medicines, using this 2.400 per cent increase of gold during the ten years, are effective in controlling diseases like cancer, AIDS or other deadly diseases; and

(c) if not, whether this ancient Ayurvedic system could be reoriented in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government are aware of such a report appearing in newspaper.

(b) and (c) Swarana Bhasmas are used in a number of classical and patent proprietary Ayurvedic medicines. These medicines are used in diabetes, arthritis, sinusitis, neuromuscular disorders including paralysis. Some of the Vaidyas are using these medicines in some cases of cancer and AIDS. However, efficacy in such diseases is yet to be established through studies.

ORET Programme

2273. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in connection with getting approval from Government for ORET programme;

(b) if so, when this request was received; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposal titled 'Improvement of Diagnostic and Emergency Medical Services in

the State of Andhra Pradesh' with an estimated outlay of Euro 45 million (approx. Rs. 225 crores) for assistance under Dutch ORET programme was received from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in June, 2003.

(c) The proposal has been examined in consultation with the Directorate General of Health Services and additional information has been asked from the State Government on 30th July, 2003.

Sale of Physician Samples in Markets

†2274.SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the medicines labelled as 'Physician sample not to be sold' are being sofd on a large scale in the open market involving trade of lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to deal strictly with the people involved in such trade; and

(d) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government is not aware of any reports of large scale sale of physician samples in the open market. The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. 1945, do not permit sale or stocking on the premises of chemists and druggists, of drugs intended for distribution to the practitioners of the medical profession as free samples and labelled as 'Physician Samples- not to be sold'. Violation of this provision is a contravention of the conditions of sale licence granted by the State Licencing Authority and is a punishable offence.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.